

IDF soldier hurt in Lebanon

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Artillery exchanges took place in southern Lebanon last night between the IDF and SLA and Hizbullah, after an IDF soldier was lightly wounded and a Lebanese man was killed in a Hizbullah roadside bomb attack.

The IDF Spokesman said the army was investigating whether the IDF soldier was wounded by Hizbullah fire, or mistakenly fired upon by a fellow soldier while on patrol along the border fence with Lebanon last night.

The soldier, who was wounded in the shoulder, was taken by ambulance to the hospital in Nahariya.

According to initial reports, the shooting occurred in the early evening, when a soldier on patrol detected suspicious movement and opened fire, and then realized he had struck a fellow soldier on another patrol.

But Hizbullah later issued a statement saying it had wounded an Israeli soldier in an attack.

Earlier in the day, a roadside bomb apparently planted by Hizbullah killed a truck driver in southern Lebanon yesterday.

Hizbullah said it attacked an Israeli patrol in south Lebanon shortly after SLA sources said shells hit one of its outposts.

Israeli officials again issues messages in an attempt to calm the situation.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said Israel does not want to widen its actions in Lebanon.

"I don't want to take any action in Lebanon that would destroy understandings reached and amount to an adventure. I favor only actions that have the defined goal of striking at Hizbullah and giving security to northern settlements," he told reporters in the north.

Hours after the blast in Jezzine, IDF artillery fired shells at suspected Hizbullah positions in mountains in the south of the Bekaa Valley, SLA sources said.

The IDF Spokesman denied the report.

Hizbullah said its men fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at IDF forces in the western sector of the security zone.

The blast occurred a day after the IAF launched its biggest attack on Lebanon in 16 months and raised the death toll of this week's attacks to at least 10 Lebanese civilians.

A similar incident on Monday sparked three days of violence, including shelling of the port city of Sidon by SLA militiamen that killed six people and

Hizbullah rocket barrages on northern Israel.

There were fears of more reprisals and counterattacks after yesterday's roadside bomb that killed the truck driver on a road near Jezzine - a Christian mountain town, 40 kilometers south-east of Beirut.

Since the eruption of violence on Monday, hundreds of residents in Hizbullah-controlled territory have headed north to safer areas.

This month's violence between Israel and Hizbullah has claimed a total of 25 lives in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and injured three in Israel.

Yesterday's bombing came a day after IAF jets raided deep inside Lebanon, targeting a Hizbullah base in eastern Lebanon, an electricity pylon in the center and a Lebanese army artillery battery in the south. Four Lebanese were injured.

The violence has threatened to undermine a US-brokered agreement reached in April 1996 to spare civilians.

The monitoring committee - made up of representatives from the United States, France, Lebanon, Israel and Syria - continued meeting yesterday to hear complaints from Israel and Lebanon about this week's fighting.



Palestinian police hold back demonstrating medical workers as they try to march on the Erez checkpoint yesterday. (Reuters)

PA pursues dialogue with Hamas

By JON IMMANUEL

The Palestinian Authority pursued its dialogue yesterday with Hamas in Ramallah, and chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat stressed that the talks were aimed at forging greater Palestinian unity.

"I can't understand what [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is worried about," Erekat said. "We are a society which believes in democracy and pluralism. We will not allow Hamas to form an alternative society."

While Israel criticized Arafat for not arresting Hamas militants, they noted that Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, embraced by Arafat at the opening conference in Gaza on Wednesday, was released from an Israeli jail this year.

Erekat alleged that "Netanyahu has brought relations between the Israeli and Palestinian people to their worst point since the beginning of the peace process."

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, chief adviser to PA head Yasser Arafat, said the conference wasn't

being held to appease Hamas but to assert PLO domination. He stressed that the PLO was leading the meeting and that "our strategic choice is peace."

He explained Arafat's "all options are open" remark at the opening session Wednesday as meaning that "if Israel is not interested in peace it will push Palestinians to reconsider things."

Still, Abu Rudeineh asserted it would be more difficult for the PLO to renege on the 1993 peace deal than for Israel.

Regarding the boycott of Israeli goods declared this week, a measure which Hamas has long supported, Abu Rudeineh said it was in retaliation for the three-week-old closure and that the boycott would end when the closure does.

"If they are not letting workers in we have a right to stop goods," he said.

Some Israeli trucks were turned back at the Karni checkpoint in Gaza on Monday. Palestinian inspectors have warned merchants to buy no more Israeli goods after they sell

their present stock. Announcements have appeared in the press urging consumers to buy local goods.

Israel could lose millions of dollars a day in exports to the West Bank and Gaza, but would also have the ability to retaliate by preventing the Palestinians from exporting their produce or importing goods from elsewhere.

Several delegates from Gaza who tried to travel to Ramallah were turned back at the Erez checkpoint, including Kamal Sharafi, head of the legislative council's committee investigating PA corruption.

Imad Falouji, a former Hamas militant who is now communications minister, was allowed through.

In Gaza, doctors and nurses, joined by Islamic activists, marched towards Erez checkpoint from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City to protest deteriorating health conditions, including vaccine shortages for children.

Israeli security sources denied that any medicines were being kept from reaching Gaza.

Israel, US examine Arrow failure

By STEVE RODAN

Israeli and US teams worked furiously throughout yesterday to examine data on Wednesday's failed Arrow 2 missile test in an attempt to limit any delay in the anti-missile defense program and Israeli plans to deploy the system next year.

Israeli officials said they are attempting to combine the tasks of the failed test with those of the forthcoming test planned for early 1998 to save time and meet their deadline for Arrow deployment by the end of 1998. The next test is meant to be the last of a series of six tests before the Arrow is to be deployed here.

Israel has tried to speed up development of the Arrow in an attempt to advance its deployment, prompted by the intense development and production of ballistic missiles in Syria and Iran. Israel and the US have also cooperated on other anti-missile defense programs to complement the Arrow system.

Defense sources said the malfunction in the Arrow 2 was not the result of a system-wide failure. Instead,

they said, it appears to have been the result of a wire attached to several systems in the missile that short-circuited. The mishap caused the Arrow to spin out of control and prompted an order to destroy the missile seconds after its launch.

"We tested all the systems and all worked well," a defense source said. "We know there is nothing wrong with the conception or the systems in the Arrow."

Pam Rogers, a spokesman for the US Ballistics Missile Defense Organization in Huntsville, Alabama, said Israeli and US teams would continue to examine the results of the tests before deciding on the next launch.

"It's too soon to tell," Rogers said. "They have to go over the results and see what it means for the next launch."

The failed launch cost the Arrow program \$10 million, defense sources said. But the sources maintained that the failure did not erase the previous successes of Arrow 2.

State Dept. chides Arafat for meeting with Hamas

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The State Department shifted course slightly yesterday, mildly criticizing Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat for his statements at Wednesday's meeting of Islamic opposition groups and his embrace of Hamas leaders.

"We believe that the leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad are the enemies of peace, and we don't think that any of the leaders in the region who are our partners in the search for peace should leave any doubt that there is a tolerance for violence or terror," State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

At his briefing Wednesday, Rubin avoided comment on Arafat's comments. But yesterday he said Arafat's statements do not "help restore" relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

What Arafat said "wasn't particularly constructive in trying to bring and restore confidence and trust. On the other hand... he made clear that he does support the peace process and called on the supporters of the peace process to work with him for a just and comprehensive peace," Rubin said.

"So it's never a simple matter to try to parse the words. But clearly we wish he had not said some of the things he said."

questioning. During the investigation police discovered that the entry visa stamped on his Jordanian passport was no longer valid.

According to Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby, Ismail had renewed his visa several times, but had been in the country for at least 18 months without renewing it. Ben-Ruby said that Ismail was remanded by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court until Sunday, when a date for his deportation would be set.

Israel regards the incident as a serious violation of the Oslo agreements, which forbid the PA from employing Jordanian residents, Ben-Ruby said.

Jordanian employed by PA to be deported

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Fuad Ismail, a Jordanian resident employed by the Palestinian Authority as the chief military prosecutor for the Ramallah region, will be deported to Jordan early next week.

Ismail was arrested Wednesday by border policemen at the A-Ram junction roadblock after it was discovered that he had no permit to enter Jerusalem. In addition, the serial number of the gun found in his possession did not match the number written on his weapon permit.

Ismail was taken to the Russian Compound police station in Jerusalem for further

questioning. During the investigation police discovered that the entry visa stamped on his Jordanian passport was no longer valid.

According to Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby, Ismail had renewed his visa several times, but had been in the country for at least 18 months without renewing it. Ben-Ruby said that Ismail was remanded by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court until Sunday, when a date for his deportation would be set.

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DISMISS

Continued from Page 1

"Already he's being compared to Benjamin Netanyahu, who axed

the entire Likud apparatus and brought in his henchmen to run things," a senior Histadrut source said.

"The timing couldn't be worse. Just when the nation's workers are

gearing up for the fight of their lives against the government, Barak is perceived to be on the wrong side. How will the public have faith in him if he himself fires workers?"

CORRECTION

Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations,

said, "No persons known to supportive of the White House," and not as reported yesterday.

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Peace Now alleges new settlement being planned

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Peace Now yesterday urged the government to halt alleged plans to turn a Nahal outpost next to Ma'aleh Adumim into a settlement.

"We have received information that next week 30 caravans will be taken to the site," of the Esvat outpost, which is a branch of the Tourist College in Ma'aleh Adumim, Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari said.

She said that the local Megilot Regional Council also had plans

to turn the outpost into a holiday village and then a community settlement.

Avi Benayahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's media coordinator, denied there are plans to turn Esvat into a holiday village.

He said the ministry also hasn't approved or received any requests for trailers to be moved to the site.

Ya'ari said Peace Now would petition the High Court against any attempts to populate the outpost.

Winning Cards and Numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the first winning cards were the king of spades, queen of hearts, 7 of diamonds, and ace of clubs, and in the second draw were 8 of spades, king of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, ticket number 711952 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 313521 won the car.

Tickets 094771, 783605, 377696, 462536, 857955, 064386, 217478 and 545600 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 12728, 15323, 97505, 75366, 54659, 02086, 61943, 46345, 34976, 51974, 62095, 06101, 09215, 59352, 42106, 19822, 15342, 76704 and 46609 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 885, 649, 788 and 047 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 63, 92, 58 and 33 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 27 and 31 won NIS 20. And tickets ending in 3 or 6 won NIS 10.

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Israel, Croatia establish ties

Jerusalem Post Staff

After holding secret talks in Budapest, Israel and Croatia announced yesterday the establishment of diplomatic ties.

In its statement, Croatia apologized "for crimes committed against the Jewish people during the Nazi period" and by the

Croatian regime at that time. "Fascism, racial hatred, xenophobia and antisemitism are abhorrent and are condemned by the democratic government and people of the Republic of Croatia," added the statement signed by Hrvoje Sarnic, head of the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

Israel was represented by Eitan Bentsur, the Foreign Ministry's director-general.

He expressed "great interest in Croatia's achievement of independence in addition to the importance which the people of Croatia today attach to values of freedom and democracy."

Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman also plans a visit to Israel to apologize personally for crimes perpetrated by some of his people during the Holocaust, the Foreign Ministry said.

Several months back Israel was cool to Zagreb's feelers for forging ties after Tudjman published a book called *Horrors of War* which

contained quotes deemed antisemitic.

A revised edition has been published omitting the offensive passages, Croatia's statement said.

Tudjman has expressed interest in building close cooperation with Israel in the fields of defense and industry.



US Congressman Benjamin Gilman, Chairman of the House International Affairs Committee, walks through Mahaneh Yehuda with Tsafi Adorian, whose husband Eli was killed in last month's bombing, prior to yesterday's memorial ceremony. (Brian Hendler)

US group holds Mahaneh Yehuda memorial ceremony

By JAY BUSHENSKY

A memorial ceremony yesterday at the site of last month's Mahaneh Yehuda suicide bombing inspired a fervent demand from Rep. Benjamin Gilman that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat declare war on terrorism.

The chairman of the House International Affairs Committee said that there can be no peace process without a "core commitment" by Arafat to security and non-violence. "We came together to memorialize the 14 innocent people - young and old, men and women - who were engaged in everyday activities," Gilman said. "The suicide bombers were intent on killing Jews and Israelis and in destroying the peace process."

At his side were US Ambassador Martin Indyk and Mayor Ehud Olmert. The audience was comprised of a Congressional delegation as well as members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations headed by its executive vice chairman, Malcolm Hoenlein, as well as shoppers and vendors.

Gilman said it was ironic that "these terrifying explosions, so heinous in their destruction," took place at the street name for the tree of life - Rehov Etz Ha'Chaim. Indyk said the Mahaneh Yehuda

market represents life in Israel, adding that its distinctively national character may have been the reason it was chosen as the terrorists' target.

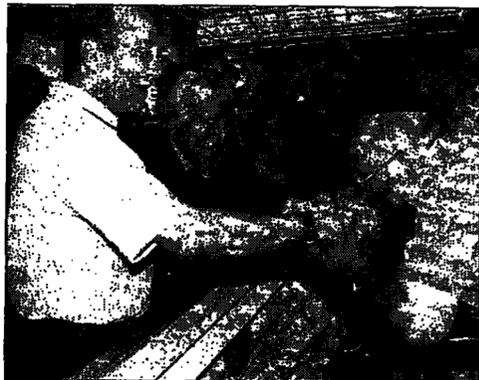
Referring to the political and diplomatic aspects of the antiterrorism issue as it is being played out in the US, Gilman noted that the State Department "failed" to submit a report to Congress on Arafat's compliance or non-compliance with its demand that the PA fight terrorism.

By not issuing the report in mid-July, as requested, the State Department made it obvious "even before the latest tragedy," that the US government could not certify that Arafat and the PA were complying with their commitment, he said.

In an interview conducted on the eve of the memorial ceremony, Hoenlein credited President Clinton with having encouraged and supported the omnibus antiterrorism bill "despite the reservations harbored by some members of his administration." Hoenlein said it took 18 months to get it through Congress.

He praised the president's determination to stand up to terrorism in the US and abroad.

While various Arab-American groups which favor the regional peace process have been welcomed to the White House, persons known to support Hamas or



A Mahaneh Yehuda vendor kisses the hands of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (left) and Benjamin Gilman during their tour of the market yesterday. (Ariel Jeruzolimski)

who are suspected of being directly or indirectly-linked to any Middle Eastern terrorist activities never have been on the Presidential guest list, he went on. Hoenlein was certain the State Department will publish a list of terrorist organizations as required by Congress, attributing the delay to legal considerations.

Referring to a speech made by Nabil Ramlawi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's representative to the UN in Geneva, who accused Israel of injecting Palestinian children with the AIDS virus, Hoenlein said the US delegate, Nancy Rubin, has written a letter demanding that the UN repudiate it "on and for the record."

Delegation threatens to withhold US aid to PA

By STEVE RODAN

A visiting delegation of US congressmen, expressing alarm over Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's embrace of Hamas, warned yesterday Congress will not renew aid to the PA unless it wages a successful battle against terrorism.

Members of the delegation also warned that if Arafat refuses to combat terrorism, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process will collapse.

"We want to see not only efforts," said Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), chairman of the House International Relations Committee. "We want to see results. We want them to live up to their commitments. Until they do, we will hold back funds."

The delegation was scheduled to meet with Arafat in Ramallah last night and members said they would relay this to him.

Earlier, the delegation toured Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market, the scene of the suicide bombings on June 30 that killed 14 people and injured more than 170.

Gilman said he was not convinced Arafat was genuine in fulfilling his commitments under Oslo Accords, including the battle against terrorism and the PLO charter revision.

"So far, we have not been convinced that the PLO charter has been changed," Gilman said. "Some speak of 100 percent efforts. Some want 100% results. Arafat must make good on his commitments. Without such a commitment, there can't be a process. Yasser Arafat has come to a fork in the road. He must make a choice."

The annual \$100 million in aid to the PA was cut off on August 13, but congressional sources say the move only affected about 30 percent of the funding. The rest has already been allocated to projects sponsored by the US Agency for International Development.

An amendment sponsored by Rep. James Saxton (R-NJ) would cut off all funding to the PA.

A senior congressional source said the State Department plans to lobby hard to renew aid to the PA, when Congress returns from recess early next month.

Another member of the delegation, Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), said Congress will not rush to restore aid to the PA. "We're going to give this a harder and longer look after the terrorist attacks," he said. "We believe that Yasser Arafat has to go after terrorists and until he does, we will be reluctant to help him."

Engel also said he would tell Arafat of his concern over the PA's renewal of dialogue with Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Official in PM's Office blasts Weizman

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Aryc Shumer, the director-general of the President's Bureau yesterday called for the dismissal of a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office who reportedly said that President Ezer Weizman is "undermining" the prime minister and government.

Ma'ariv ran the accusations in its lead story yesterday. Quoting an unnamed senior source in the Prime Minister's Office, the paper said that "Weizman pushes himself in everywhere and causes damage... he interferes in matters that do not belong to him, is pathetic, and wants to earn a second term of office at any price."

With reference to his upcoming visit to Washington, the official reportedly said: "Weizman used pressure to be received by [President Bill] Clinton and one can imagine what he will tell him."

The official added that the elected government, not the president, is supposed to conduct foreign policy.

"It is possible that there is someone in the Prime Minister's Office that does not like what I am doing,

but I do what I have to do," Weizman told Ma'ariv when asked for his response.

Asked about his remarks in the North that the government is not doing enough on a day-to-day basis and that the complaints of people there are valid, Weizman said: "[Foreign Minister] David Levy said the same thing. I have slept there three times when there were Katyusha attacks. Jealousy sometimes makes people go crazy."

He added that he is not aware of any problem between him and the premier.

Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu reportedly was "furious" when he heard the official's remarks. "These remarks were made without my permission and, moreover, they are the exact opposite of my position," he was quoted as saying. "I admire and am very fond of the president."

He said the close relations between them have "become even stronger recently." During his Caesarea vacation last week, Netanyahu and his family twice visited the Weizmans informally.

Asked whether Netanyahu planned to dismiss the official,

his spokesman Shai Bazak told Educational TV's *Erev Hadash* yesterday: "We are not involved in investigations and axing staff... The president and prime minister work together well and will know how to do so in the future."

In a conversation from Washington, Shumer stressed that

whenever Weizman meets with foreign leaders, he stresses that Netanyahu is the address for political negotiations.

Bazak confirmed that the president's upcoming Washington visit, planned for October 4, is being coordinated between Shumer, and senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office.

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NEWS

in brief

Transport Ministry allocates NIS 3m. to North
Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy announced yesterday he would allocate NIS 3 million for various projects in communities along the confrontation line in the North. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Terrorist victim back home 2 years after attack
Yael Lahav, 39, who was seriously wounded in the Bus No. 26 terrorist bombing in Jerusalem's Ramat Eshkol neighborhood, was released from Hadassah's Ein Kerem Hospital yesterday - exactly two years since the attack.
"I still don't remember a thing about what happened," she said. "My memory returned only two months after the attack."
She had a series of operations on her arm, and still requires orthopedic aids, but is able to walk and even began driving lessons in a special car designed for her disability. *Irim*

Top politicians setting up fund for the needy
Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and a list of Knesset members from various parties announced plans yesterday to set up a fund for the needy to which they would each donate NIS 1,000 a month from a special salary increase being paid to senior officials.
Joining Eitan are MKs Yael Dayan of Labor, Naomni Blumenthal of Likud and Rehavam Ze'evi of Moledet. *Irim*

Arab League asks help for Palestinians
CAIRO, Egypt - The Arab League has urged member nations to help the Palestinian Authority overcome financial hardships caused by Israel's three-week-old closure, a statement said yesterday. Arab League secretary-general Esamat Abdel-Meguid thanked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who pledged \$10 million to the Palestinians on Tuesday.
Abdel-Meguid hopes that the league's other 21 nations will follow suit to enable the PA to "face the blockade policy (closure) and collective punishment imposed by Israel." *AP*

Court asked to end bus segregation
The Israel Women's Network has petitioned the High Court to put an end to the segregation of men and women on certain bus lines in Bnei Brak. In its petition against Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, the network says that segregation violates the Basic Law: Human Freedom and Dignity and is opposed to the principle of equality. They note that the women are told to sit in the back of the bus and that this is degrading and difficult for mothers with small children or women with heavy baskets. The petition also asks for a halt to plans to segregate some Jerusalem bus lines. *Batsheva Tsur*

Plane swerves off-course during landing
An Egyptian plane swerved off the runway as it landed at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday morning and hit two light poles. No one was hurt. The pilot of the Air Sinai Boeing 737 arriving from Cairo managed to regain control of the plane and return it to the runway. *Irim*

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Ms. Calderon Ben-Shachar is currently the Chairperson at "Alma" Hebrew College, and Mr. Bar-Or is the Director of Amutat "Kolat".

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When silence is not golden

Maybe I have been wrong these past two years. Maybe Americans should stop travelling to Israel. After all, if you are murdered by a Palestinian terrorist, that's your tough luck.

Those are not truly my feelings but it is the message that some of us are getting. The "us" are the parents and families of those Americans who have lost sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, to the suicide bombers and others who are so intent on not letting Jews live in the State of Israel. The message is coming not from the Palestinian side, but from our own.

I recently received the horrifying news that the Palestinian Authority has released a terrorist who, according to the Israeli government, was involved in the 1995 bombing attack in which my daughter, Alisa, was murdered.

A 35-page report issued by the Israeli government on July 20, 1997, stated that in recent months, the PA "has released dozens of terrorists from detention, including... Nabil Sharhi, who helped prepare the bomb used in the April 1995 Kfar Darom attack in which seven Israelis and one American [Alisa] were killed."

Unfortunately, this is not the only case in which suspects in the murders of Americans have been identified and found to be living in territory controlled by the PA.

For instance: The PA has ignored Israel's request to hand over Nufar Sharif, who transported the explosives to the terrorist who carried out the August 21, 1995 Jerusalem bus bombing, in which five people, including Connecticut school teacher Joan Davenny, were murdered.

The PA has ignored Israel's request to hand over Nafez Mahmoud Sabih, who helped plan the February 25, 1996 Jerusalem bus bombing, in which Jewish Theological Seminary student Matthew Eisenfeld, of Connecticut, and his fiancée, Sara Duker, of New Jersey, were mur-

STEPHEN M. FLATOW

dered. Amjad Hanawi, who is suspected of involvement in the May 1996 murder of David Boim, 17, a dual Israeli-American citizen, was imprisoned by the PA, but then was given a vacation from jail in February 1997. He never returned. Another American citizen, Moshe Greenbaum, 17, was wounded in the same attack. Amin Hindi, who is currently

US Jewish leaders must speak out against the PA's release of terrorists who murdered Americans

the head of Yasser Arafat's General Intelligence Service, masterminded the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre of 11 athletes, including David Berger, of Cleveland, a dual Israeli-American citizen.

Yet, since the issuance of the report, to my knowledge only one American Jewish organization, the Zionist Organization of America, has seen fit to take note of the situation and to ask the American government to act.

I AM publicly asking our Jewish leaders to speak out against the Palestinian Authority's release of Sharhi and to urge the United States government to use all means at its disposal to ensure the arrest and prosecution of Sharhi and others suspected in the murders of American citizens. The morality of the situation requires nothing less.

If, for some reason, Arafat will not transfer Sharhi to Israel for prosecution (as is required by the Oslo Accords), then we should demand he be transferred to the US for prosecution under the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act, which permits the US to prose-

cute an individual who murders an American abroad.

Special Mideast envoy Dennis Ross recently said that America cannot ask for extradition of Nafez Sabih (suspect in the Duker-Eisenfeld murders) because "one of the obstacles to doing that is the fact that the US does not have an extradition treaty with the PA," but that is not the case.

According to Malvina Halberstam, a law school professor and former counselor on international law in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the State Department, Ross is wrong. Halberstam has stated:

"While it is correct that we do not have an extradition treaty with the PA, that does not mean that Nafez Sabih cannot be transferred to the US for trial. Even states that have extradition treaties with each other often use other means of rendition such as deportation. If the PA wants to hand over Sabih to the US for trial, it can certainly find a way to do so. The problem is that, thus far, the US has not requested the PA to do so."

If our leadership is afraid of upsetting the Oslo apple cart, it should remember that it doesn't bother the PA when its release of terrorists and its inaction in ending the terror threat allows others to knock over the push carts at Mahaneh Yehuda and to enlarge the circle of victims and their families.

Failure to pursue Sharhi and his ilk sends a message to terrorists everywhere that if they murder Americans, they will not be punished.

It is bad enough that the State Department warns Americans against travelling in Israel. When American Jewish leaders are silent, they do the same.

The writer is the father of Alisa Flatow, a victim of the terror attack at Kfar Darom on April 9, 1995. He is the founder of the Alisa Flatow Memorial Fund which provides scholarships for study in Israel.



GALI FRIEDMAN

Haredim in the zoo

Haredim have a public relations problem. As far as the secular media are concerned, they are the Jews who aren't there.

That does not mean, of course, that the haredim are not covered in the media. Quite the opposite. The media obsession with haredim finds its nearest parallel in the UN's obsession with Israel. (Standards of accuracy in both cases are roughly comparable.)

But while haredim are objects of discussion, they are not participants. The widespread assumption appears to be that no one in the haredi community is capable of articulating the community's world view in an intellectually coherent manner.

When issues involving the community arise, aligned on one side of the debate will be Jerusalem city councilman Ornan Yekutieli, MK Naomi Chazan, et al., and, on the other side, Dr. Menahem Friedman or some other academic specializing in the haredi community. But haredim will not be permitted to speak for themselves.

In short, haredim are viewed as fit objects of sociological and anthropological study, rather than as legitimate participants in the national debate. The only haredim ever quoted are those with a talent for self-promotion and providing good copy in the form of shock headlines, such as Yehuda Meshi-Zahav, self-styled "director of operations" for the Eda Haredit.

The only time that haredim can be assured of access to the media is to condemn someone within their own community. Thus after the Shavut confrontation at the Western Wall, rabbinic leaders were urged to publicly condemn the spitting and epithets or have it assumed they condoned it. Ignored was the repeated public rejection of violence as a means by all haredi authorities, most recently in the controversy over the Shabbat closing of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan, when posters decrying violence signed by leading religious authorities appeared throughout Jerusalem.

Those who had never sought the views of rabbis on any issue of national concern suddenly proffered them a band on the cable spectrum, albeit for the exclusive purpose of apologizing. Not surprisingly, the generous offer was not seized upon.

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

THE relegation of haredim to the realm of historical curiosities adversely affects both the secular majority and the haredim. The former are cut off from those with the most profound knowledge of our common heritage: the Torah of Israel. Even more important, secular Jews are denied exposure to those for whom Judaism is most vibrant - a living, pulsing, all-encompassing way of life, not an artifact for nostalgic viewing in some museum.

Haredim too are injured by their exclusion from the national

Treating haredim as historical curiosities adversely affects both the secular majority and the haredim

debate. First, they are not forced to present traditional Judaism in terms that are understandable to those who start from different presuppositions.

But the problem goes deeper than that. Of necessity, the education of haredi children involves instilling them with a deep revulsion to all that is antithetical to Torah values in the surrounding society. It is not an education that starts from the premise that all truth is relative, and then tells the young, "Choose for yourself."

The danger for haredim in the negation of the surrounding society, however, is that in the process they will forget that society is composed of fellow Jews. For the haredi Jew, his role in life is to reveal the beauty of God's Torah through his words and deeds. But when haredim are consigned to their own enclaves and not allowed to speak to the broader public, the danger increases that they will forget about their audience.

Finally, the perception that the secular media will eagerly seize upon any lapses in the haredi community, but never allow that community to present itself in a favorable light can lead itself to a situation in which pressing issues within the community are not adequately addressed. The fear of "washing our dirty laundry in

public" stifles the open discussion necessary to finding solutions.

While haredim believe that the Torah is the blueprint for the perfection of human society, they are under no illusion - contrary to what much of the secular public thinks - that they have achieved that perfection.

Self-criticism is deeply engrained in the haredi mindset. The calls for collective repentance, for instance, that issue from the haredi world after every national tragedy are directed inward not outward. They are not, as is frequently charged, attempts to lay the blame for all that befalls us on the secularists.

The prophet Jonah's declaration "because of me is this great tempest," even though he is surrounded by idol worshippers, is an expression of the classic Jewish view: Our collective fate is determined first and foremost by those with the greatest awareness of God. Thus when haredim refrain from addressing their own shortcomings because of fear of a hostile media, they are being deterred from an essential spiritual task.

Both the haredi and secular worlds would benefit from a situation in which a column like this is not an anomaly, and a haredi writer for a general audience did not have to worry that he is being judged, to paraphrase Dr. Johnson, by the standards of dogs walking on their hind legs - the amazing thing is not that they do it well, but that they do it at all.

The writer is a biographer and comments on current events.

Congratulations, Massoomeh Ebtekar!

For the first time in the history of Iran, a woman has been appointed vice president.

She is Prof. Massoomeh Ebtekar of Teheran University. Almost two years ago, Ebtekar and I sat together for 11 days in Beijing at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women. Since delegates from various nations sit alphabetically by country, as an Israeli delegate I found myself sitting a few seats away from Ebtekar and the rest of the Iranian delegation.

As we worked long hours into the night drafting the Platform for Action, the document adopted by all of the member states at the end of the conference, we shared thoughts on how best to improve the status of women and ensure equality for girls and women all over the world.

Among the areas of critical concern at the conference was "the inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision making at all levels." As an Israeli women's rights lawyer, I can only be a bit envious as I congratulate Ebtekar and the new president of Iran for appointing such an educated, qualified woman to the vice presidency of her country.

According to newspaper reports, she was educated in the US and holds a doctorate in chemistry. In addition to the vice presidency, Ebtekar has been appointed director of the Department of the Environment.

Mohammed Khatami, the new president of Iran, received enormous support from the women of

SHARON SHENHAV

his country during the recent election and promised to appoint women to leading positions in his government. He has made a good beginning on his campaign promises with the appointment of Ebtekar. Sadly, in Israel, our political leaders are not so gender conscious. Despite a plethora of qualified women, our prime minister has not seen fit to appoint a

As a women's rights lawyer, I can only be a bit envious of Iran for appointing a woman vice president

woman to be his deputy. In fact, women are rarely seen in decision-making forums and the idea of equality between the sexes in the sharing of power is a joke.

Women's rights activists in our region will be watching with interest to see if and how Ebtekar uses her new position to improve the social, economic, and political status of Iranian women. One of her greatest challenges, which we will be following with special interest, is how she and her colleagues will deal with the influence of religion on the rights of women to marry and divorce, to participate actively in public life and to dress according to their taste.

ALTHOUGH we are proud that we live in a Western-style democratic state, the problems faced by Iranian women are not so different

than those faced by their counterparts here.

Take, for example, the issue of marriage and divorce. Religious law governs in these areas and civil marriage does not exist. Women in Israel are forced to divorce in religious courts where religious law is interpreted by men only, as women cannot be judges in either rabbinical courts or

shariya (Moslem religious law) courts.

Discrimination against women in the religious courts is well documented and the painful problem of *agnonot* is recognized as a serious denial of Jewish women's human rights. Childless Jewish widows are in limbo for years as they wait for their brothers-in-law to agree to grant *halitza*.

And then there's the issue of clothing, which seems to be a problem only for women; men can dress as immodestly as they please. Last summer, women employees of the Ministry of Education were

physically attacked and verbally abused by religious extremists in Jerusalem because they chose to dress in summer clothes which were not considered modest enough. The Super Sol supermarket chain has installed "modesty guards" at several of its stores. In these stores, women are not permitted to enter if they are wearing pants or if they do not meet the modesty standards set by some of the haredi customers.

Despite the ruling by the High Court of Justice over 10 years ago that a woman had a right to serve on a religious council, the issue has come up again and again as local rabbis refuse to allow duly elected women to sit on these councils. The cases include Efrat, Jerusalem, Netanya and Haifa.

Jewish women in Israel and abroad are probably the most highly educated and well organized group of women in the world. Jewish women's rights organizations are vocal and responsive. Nonetheless, we Jewish women have failed to achieve full equality in any area of private or public life.

Can it be that a country like Iran will prove to be more responsive to the demands of its women for justice and equality? Will Ebtekar succeed where we have failed?

The writer is director of the Overseas Department of Na'ama.

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Making a pact with the devil?

By reaching out to his Islamic opposition, the PA chairman is admitting weakness and putting his leadership at risk, Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib report

About a year ago, Sheikh Hamid Bitawi and several clerical colleagues asked Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to reopen the offices of the Moslem Brotherhood, closed since Israel took over the West Bank after the Six Day War. For months, the Palestinian Authority did not reply. Now Arafat is pressing for cooperation with Hamas and Islamic Jihad as part of a "national dialogue," which took place on Wednesday and yesterday, and Bitawi hopes that the PA chief will approve the sheikh's request to revive the Moslem Brotherhood movement. "The PA has never said yes or no to us," Bitawi says. "But we learned that the great majority of PA officials are opposed to the demand."

Arafat might be embracing his Islamic opposition in public. But privately, both Arafat and his senior advisers are worried that a powerful Hamas will exploit the PA's welcome mat to garner even greater popularity and influence in Gaza and the West Bank. At a time when the PA seems to be doing nothing right, the Hamas alternative stands out as the most genuine hope.

Palestinian analysts, including those in the PA, say Arafat is desperate. The credibility of his rule, and particularly of the Palestinian Police, is at an all-time low. The latest example is the protest in Beit Sahur against police, after

What Arafat wants, Israeli officials say, is a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and an internationally recognized corridor connecting the West Bank to Gaza. But Arafat is seeing his hopes being dashed. Indeed, the officials say, the closure over the past three weeks proved how weak the PA is. Arafat could not pay salaries, health and education services plummeted and many Palestinians were left without funds.

Enter Hamas. Its schools have been operating on schedule. Its clinics are serving Palestinians everywhere. And its charities are providing loans to the needy.

ARAFAT HAS wavered between embracing the opposition and destroying it. Take Bitawi's request for the renewal of the Moslem Brotherhood movement. After months of silence, two leading PA officials met with members of Bitawi's group in Nablus in June. The officials, according to the account of a senior Palestinian source, tried to convince some of the clerics to break away from the Moslem Brotherhood and establish their own Islamic movement. The sheikhs were noncommittal. Still, the officials hurried to Arafat and urged him to sign an order that would grant Bitawi's group a license to a splinter Brotherhood group. Arafat did not



Reconciliation: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat embraces his Islamic militant rival, Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, during a show of Palestinian unity in Gaza City on Wednesday. (AP)

Israeli officials say, is indeed taking place, as the exchanges of intelligence information has become paltry. The low point came in the aftermath of the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings, when PA security officials refused to make arrests of suspected Hamas terrorists, refused to release information obtained in interrogations of Hamas militants and gave Israel misleading information meant to convince the General Security Service that the suicide bombers did not come from the territories. "Unfortunately, there has been no progress made in the investigation," IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami says.

ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE sources say Arafat is taking his biggest risk in trying to forge cooperation with Hamas. They say Hamas is growing stronger and any dialogue will legitimize the Islamic movement while pointing to the increasing weakness of Arafat. Privately, senior aides to Arafat agree and have warned the PA chief of the dangers of Hamas. A memorandum from PA Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan to Arafat, first published on June 7 in the Amman newspaper *Al Urdun*, whose contents were confirmed by Palestinian and Israeli intelligence sources, warned that Hamas is preparing to

"The potential competition, contradiction and conflict between the authority and Hamas-controlled town councils would prove time- and energy-consuming and could distract us from pursuing our national interests," the memorandum reads. "It would be hard to take in [Hamas] and attempt its liquidation without the authority laying itself open to considerable risks on the domestic and foreign fronts."

DAHLAN DOES not oppose a national dialogue. But he warns against allowing Hamas to grow as a result. He also urged that PA and Fatah officials be more restrained in dealing with Hamas. "To check such inclinations, hints must be dropped of the possibility of severe deterrent action," he writes.

The PA security official calls for all candidates in the municipal council elections to be screened and that the campaign be closely monitored to eliminate a campaign against the PA.

"A step-by-step media and political campaign must be launched to warn the public against the danger inherent in a replication of the Algerian experience, using television, the press and political supporters, among other means," Dahlan writes. "An effort must be made to warn against bloody violence that the Palestinian society could be plunged into should

"This kind of dialogue with Hamas happens when there is a crisis, when Arafat does not have an answer, when the PA feels that it needs Hamas's weight."

"A step-by-step media and political campaign must be launched to warn the public against the danger inherent in a replication of the Algerian experience."
- Preventative Security chief Mohammed Dahlan

they wounded several people last week while breaking up a demonstration using live ammunition. Arafat, Palestinian sources say, can't even organize mass anti-Israeli demonstrations. Unlike previous crises, Arafat can't depend on Palestinian refugees around the Arab world. He neglected them when he signed the Declaration of Principles in 1993 with Israel that virtually ignored those Palestinians outside the territories. "This kind of dialogue with Hamas happens when there is a crisis, when Arafat does not have an answer, when the PA feels that it needs Hamas's weight," a Palestinian analyst close to the leadership says. "When they had the Oslo agreement, Arafat didn't need anything. He had all the backing he needed. Now, the PA feels very weak. Nobody is backing it."

Israeli security officials take a darker view. As they see it, Arafat is in a feisty mood. He is preparing for a confrontation and wants Hamas fighting alongside him. "He wants to form a united front," an Israeli security official says. "This way [US Secretary of State Madeline] Albright comes and he doesn't get what he wants, he won't have a problem to go to confrontation."

sign the request and shelved it until further consideration. The Moslem Brotherhood, however, thought the worst. Sheikh Ibrahim Abu Samhadaneh, chief justice of the Sharia (Moslem) court in Gaza, demanded an urgent meeting with Arafat. He told Arafat that nobody had ever succeeded in splitting the Brotherhood. "You are playing with fire," the senior Palestinian source quotes Samhadaneh as saying. "You will pay dearly for this."

Samhadaneh resigned from the state-supported Islamic court and moved to Jordan. Arafat was in a panic. He was said to have feared that word of such a resignation would reverberate throughout Gaza and the Arab world. The PA chief contacted Palestine National Council head Salim Za'atout and told him to speak to Samhadaneh. The sheikh, however, wouldn't budge. Today, Arafat wants to make his peace with Hamas. He resisted heavy Israeli and US pressure to arrest Hamas militants after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings on July 30. He has approved closer coordination between his Fatah movement and Hamas. In addition, Arafat met with Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook earlier this month and,

according to Palestinian sources, pressed for genuine cooperation with the Islamic fundamentalist movement. The PA chief has escalated his threats against Israel and says the Palestinians could abandon the peace process with Israel. ARAFAT, PALESTINIAN analysts say, has changed his mind about Hamas's value. The change is largely due to the return of Abu Marzook to Amman. Abu Marzook, head of the organization's political wing, was deported earlier this year from the US to Jordan and now maintains a low profile. However, he has succeeded in restoring cooperation between Hamas in the territories

and the leadership abroad. "Mousa Abu Marzook has been playing the delicate role of bringing together the dovish leadership in the territories and its hawkish counterpart in Amman, such as spokesman Ibrahim Ghousheh," a Hamas analyst says. "Thanks to Abu Marzook, we don't see the dichotomies anymore." Abu Marzook has also been managing the flow of new funds to the organization. The main donor has been Saudi Arabia. Hamas offices have opened in Jeddah and Riyadh and banks in Europe and Jordan are used to transfer funds to Gaza and the West Bank. The result is that conservative

estimates place support for Hamas in the territories at 35 percent. But Hamas is playing it cool with the PA. Although the Islamic group is not boycotting the current national dialogue as it did the one in Nablus earlier this year, the sheikhs want to discuss practical steps. "Our participation in the conference was approved on condition that Arafat discuss the release of Hamas detainees who are still in PA jails directly after the end of the first session of the national dialogue," Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi says. The Islamic movement is also demanding that the PA end security cooperation with Israel. That,

exploit any crisis in the peace process or within the PA and plans to gain control over municipal councils when elections are held. Dahlan's memorandum said Hamas is using the "Algerian model," in which it is avoiding a showdown with the PA while winning supporters from within Fatah, the PA and the Palestinian Legislative Council. "In the event Hamas gains control over the municipal councils, the public would juxtapose the authority's past performance with the superior services provided by the movement," Dahlan's memorandum reads. "Once in control of municipal councils, Hamas would use the cover of legitimacy to immunize itself against being harassed by the authority's security services." Dahlan envisions a scenario in which successfully-run Hamas-dominated municipal councils, aided by a massive inflow of funds from Islamic groups abroad, would win Israeli and US support as being a model of democracy. The result would be like that in Algeria, where the international community would relate to the government and opposition as equals.

Hamas win the vote to run the town councils." Finally, Dahlan urges that "alternative and practical options, including postponing the vote or amending the law, be considered to avoid elections results harmful to the PA." Indeed, PA officials acknowledge that despite Arafat's pledges, plans to hold municipal elections have been shelved. Hamas militants have few illusions about Arafat's invitation for cooperation. They say they are prepared to join the PA in battle against Israel. But they will not allow Arafat to co-opt key members of the Islamic opposition in what they are convinced is his continued drive to neuter the movement. "We are making it clear that Hamas is not like Fatah," a key Hamas operative says, echoing a recent address of Rantisi to his followers. "We are not based on the leadership of one man, even that of [Hamas founder] Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, let alone Mousa Abu Marzook." "We are committed to a principle. We are working with Yassin, not for Yassin. We won't follow Fatah by worshipping people."

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ANALYSIS

'But the terrorists came from abroad'

By BARRY RUBIN

Saying that terrorists came from "abroad" has been presented as an excuse for not halting them, as if they were invaders from outer space unstoppable by any human effort. But the exact opposite is true. When people cross borders into your territory and operate freely there, that is a far worse indictment of either political willpower or security measures than when "local" terrorists strike.

Some years ago, an Egyptian newspaper reported that Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, an Egyptian Islamic radical and notorious advocate of terrorist violence involved in the assassination of president Anwar Sadat, was living in the US. About that time, Israel detained two Palestinian-Americans on ample evidence they were carrying money and orders for Hamas terrorists here.

Israel warned the US that such groups were active in America and that terrorism might spread there. But US authorities failed to discover what a small Egyptian newspaper knew. They were unimpressed with Israel's warnings. A former intelligence official told *Time* magazine that Israel was just trying to deflect attention from the intifada.

A week later, Abdel-Rahman's followers blew up the World Trade Center. (Incidentally, two weeks later that same retired American official, the one who had ridiculed the terrorist threat, told *Time* that he had long warned against the danger of domestic terrorism.)

Was Abdel-Rahman let into the US because of his help in fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, or did US immigration authorities, as they claimed, simply have no idea of the notorious blind cleric's identity?

The answer isn't clear. But, as Napoleon's foreign minister

bombs, to work for weeks and months in the same location makes it even more likely that he will become known to police or other authorities.

This, of course, does not mean that Arafat can be expected to have a perfect record or know of a specific plan. But it does show that the PA has become more permissive about allowing an occasional attack - though not too many - believing that such violence gives it leverage against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's policy.

At any rate, PA behavior has been far worse in the past few months than during the four preceding years.

Orders for the Mahaneh Yehuda attack and the terrorists themselves may well have come from radical leaders abroad backed by Iran and/or Syria. But these operations were mounted from PA soil; direct counterterrorist responsibility was in the PA's hands. The terrorists were probably in Israeli jurisdiction only during the half-hour or so before the explosions occurred.

THE main danger of the bomb plant in Brooklyn is that what happened may be forgotten too soon, or regarded as a freak, one-time occurrence. At the very least, the strange story of two Palestinian immigrants deciding to blow up New York subways to support Hamas's terror campaign is still another sign of America's extreme vulnerability to terrorism. One thing is sure: Every terrorist group in the world is watching and taking notes for possible future use.

The ease with which these men entered and stayed in the US makes US law and law enforcement appear farcical. If the men were caught only because of the conscience of an Arab-American who discovered their plan by chance - a blow against ethnic stereotyping, but no credit to US security agencies - future attacks

When people cross borders into your territory and operate freely there, it is a far worse indictment of political willpower or security measures than when 'local' terrorists strike

Charles Talleyrand remarked, some things are worse than crimes - they are products of stupidity.

Two current terrorist cases illustrate this principle. Both instructive, they have been widely misinterpreted.

In Jerusalem, two Palestinians blew themselves up in the Mahaneh Yehuda market, killing 14 people. In Brooklyn, New York, two recent Palestinian immigrants preparing for an ambitious series of bombings were caught.

After the Jerusalem explosions, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat - echoed by much of the Western media - used the claim that the suicide bombers had come from abroad to deny any responsibility for the attack. Several times previously, Hamas had adopted the cynical ploy - no less effective for international public relations - of using bombers from villages still under Israeli control in this way they sought to distance the deed from PA responsibility and themselves from punishment by the PA.

In reality, though, if the Mahaneh Yehuda attackers really did come from another country, that would indicate an even more serious PA failure. Understanding why requires only the simplest common sense about security.

Imagine a would-be suicide terrorist living at home in the West Bank or Gaza. He goes about his normal day-to-day life as he has done for years, living with his family, going to work or school, maintaining his regular political activities. There are only two abnormal events: when he is informed of his mission, and when he picks up the bomb already en route to his target.

Compare this to the migrant terrorist. He arrives in town, a new face of fresh interest to PA police and intelligence - after all, he might be an Israeli agent, or on a mission to assassinate Arafat. He must have a place to stay, establish new contacts, and be fully instructed on where to go and how to act. Messages must be passed to confirm his orders and credentials. Surely more people will know about what is going on.

In either case, the terrorist needs a bomb manufactured on PA-controlled territory. The need to involve several people, to obtain and transport substances known to be used in making

have good prospects for success.

Why haven't more terrorist groups attacked in the US? Historically, they felt unfamiliar with that country and overestimated the difficulties. More recently, America has been too good a safe haven and fund-raising locale to risk losing. Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders have spent years operating there without problems.

Hamas quickly disclaimed any connection with the Brooklyn plot. Perhaps this is true. That two West Bank Palestinians, one of them a Hamas activist, go to the US, drift around, happen to meet, instantly trust each other, and just happen to know how to make bombs seems open to question. Yet stranger things have happened. At any rate, the investigation must find what international connections, if any, do exist.

On two previous occasions, the New York police and US government were too quick to assume that terrorist acts were merely the work of lone, crazed gunmen. Meir Kahane, it turned out later, was assassinated by a man from Abdel-Rahman's group. If this had been uncovered at the time, the World Trade Center bombing would never have happened, and several more Americans would now be alive.

The same may be true of a Palestinian who shot up the Empire State Building and killed a tourist before shooting himself.

Despite official findings, there is real evidence that the man was trained and helped on this mission by a terrorist group. If Hamas or others have decided to change tactics toward the US, it would be because they feel the struggle has escalated and - after Abu Marzook's deportation and other measures - think that America's safe-haven status is wearing off.

Again, it is not clear that this is the case, but the notion warrants more serious consideration than it seems currently to be receiving in the US.

When terrorists come from abroad it does not defuse the threat. On the contrary, it requires very serious rethinking of political issues and security measures.

The writer is senior resident scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs.



Palestinian youths burn an Israeli flag Wednesday during a demonstration in Rafah against the closure. (AP)

The closure: Security boost or ticking bomb?

Three weeks after the Mahaneh Yehuda suicide bombings, Palestinians are still under closure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jon Immanuel probes whether the blockade is effective or whether it may be making it more difficult for the IDF and Palestinian Authority to crack down on terrorism

It's a routine response to nearly every terror attack. A suicide bomber blows himself to smithereens in an Israeli bus, marketplace or cafe, and a closure is clamped on all Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinians resent it because about 100,000 of them are kept from earning livelihoods in Israel. But the Israeli public feels a tad more secure, believing that security forces will have an easier time keeping terrorists away.

Israeli and Arab experts are beginning to question the closure's effectiveness. Observers point out that the closure often doesn't even work since many Palestinians manage to bypass roadblocks, sometimes even under a soldier's gaze.

Ironically, the closure may be hitting hardest at the moderate Palestinians, those who passed security muster to obtain work permits. Many tend to obey the IDF and stay home because they would rather avoid risking a run-in with a border policeman and end up having their permit pulled.

Yet the Palestinians who pose a greater threat to Israel - those never issued work permits for security reasons - are the ones who try to infiltrate the roadblocks, in many cases successfully.

Resentment festers among Palestinians with permits who watch as those lacking the documents return home daily with cash in hand. Many workers couldn't even pick up their July paychecks since the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings came on the 30th, a day before payday.

"The black-market workers come to work as usual, but legal workers cannot," said Mohammed Amer, who works for Kav Le'oved (Workers' Hot Line), an Israeli organization devoted to the rights of Palestinian and foreign workers. Amer said that sometimes a

steady stream of Palestinians can be spotted infiltrating from the Kalkilya area, not far from the Abu Sneineh roadblock. Sometimes lax enforcement of the closure is humane, as in the case of a young Palestinian mother who

their effectiveness. "From a security standpoint we have to see things in a wider context," Shabor told Israel Radio. Instead of strengthening security, "we are actually achieving the opposite," he said.

Some officials are concerned that the extremists gain an upper hand during closures. They feel the government's decision to withhold tax money from the Palestinian Authority and a stepped-up campaign of demolishing illegally built homes, could be fueling resentment and enhancing sympathy with Islamic extremists, instead of helping Israeli security.

David Bar-Ilan, director of communications for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, reasoned that much of the money went to pay Palestinian police officers suspected of involvement in attacks on Israelis. But the PA also needs to pay its police to conduct the crackdown on terrorism that Israel demands.

Brig. Gen. Salim Bourdine, deputy head of the West Bank and Gaza civil police force, noted yesterday that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin used to compensate the PA during closures to show that the measure was for security and not punishment.

"Unlike Netanyahu, Rabin used to compensate us for losses during closures," Bourdine said. He recalled

"Unlike Netanyahu, Rabin used to compensate us for losses during closures."

—Salim Bourdine

was supposed to have ditched when he made peace with Israel in 1993. Few Israelis actually understood that Arafat's main point was that he wanted to release Israel's stranglehold on PA tax money.

Another potential consequence of the closure is a threatened Palestinian boycott of Israeli products, which could cost the Israeli economy tens of millions of dollars daily in lost revenues, or some \$2 billion a year.

The boycott called this week is reminiscent of the repeated general strikes and attempts at blockading Israeli goods that took place during the intifada. More ominously, it signals another backslide into the pre-Oslo agreement era and more of a rapprochement between the PLO and Hamas. Hamas has called for boycotting Israel since 1991, and at the time, Fatah opposed the strategy.

But Israel's persistent closures after bombings seem to make many Palestinians feel like they're back in intifada times.

Already there are indications that the boycott is being observed. "Today we returned Israeli fruit, appliances, toys, dairy products and frozen meat," Hisham Dasouki, a Palestinian security chief at the Karni crossing point into the Gaza Strip, told the Ramallah-based daily *Al-Ayyam* Monday.

Palestinian customs officials are also carrying a list of banned Israeli goods. Explaining the boycott, one Palestinian scientist said that the message from Oslo had been economic interdependence between the Palestinians and Israel, and global-

ization. "Now that Israel is changing the game, we must too," said Jad Iznak, a food biologist in Bethlehem, who says he was arrested during the intifada for writing a handbook teaching Palestinians to grow vegetables in window boxes instead of buying from Israel.

"From a security standpoint we have to see things in a wider context. Instead of strengthening security, we are actually achieving the opposite."

—Oren Shabor

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Lebanon: Is there any other way?



A resident of Kiryat Shmona surveys the damage to her home following Tuesday's barrage of Katyusha rockets fired by the Hizbullah; Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri visits a 10-year-old injured in the South Lebanese Army shelling of Sidon on Monday. (AP)

The answer is to get out — now

Isn't often that Likud MK Gideon Ezra finds himself on the side of MK Yossi Beilin and other "dovish" Labor parliamentarians.

But when it comes to the question of Israel withdrawing unilaterally from what Beilin calls "the Wild North" — Lebanon — Ezra firmly believes that is the course to take.

A former commander of the General Security Services operations in Lebanon, Ezra is unfazed by predictions of continued attacks from the North. He notes that "there is a difference between [Hizbullah's] shooting [at IDF soldiers] inside Lebanon, and shooting into Israeli territory from Lebanon." The former is more of a temptation.

And he reminds those who fear that Syria will have an interest in harassing Israel as long as there is no peace agreement that "since 1974, Syria hasn't fired a single



Gideon Ezra: "Once Israel is no longer in Lebanon, Hizbullah will have less interest in attacking Israeli territory." (Yossi Zeiger/L.P.A.)

bullet into Israel." "I'm all for reaching an agree-

ment with Syria, but we don't have one now," says Ezra. "I know many people believe that the Syrians will make our lives miserable until there is an agreement. But Syria hasn't done so thus far, and I don't think it will in the future."

"There is a difference between Syria supporting Hizbullah in southern Lebanon (now), and the way Syria will behave when we're not there. The Syrians are only in Lebanon because we are," Ezra points out, adding however that a unilateral withdrawal will only be possible if Israel is free to retaliate inside Lebanese territory, in response to an attack.

Another necessary condition for withdrawal is adequate arrangements for protecting Israeli residents of the north and the South Lebanese Army commanders.

"Here the solution would be to give our SLA allies the right to reside in Israel," says Ezra.

Michal Yudelman hears two opposing views on the Lebanon quagmire. MK Gideon Ezra is unfazed by predictions of continuing attacks if the IDF pulls out, while Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator for Lebanon, fears those attacks would only intensify

Withdrawal is no option

Of course we all want to get out of Lebanon, says Uri Lubrani, but a unilateral withdrawal from the security zone is simply not an option.

"It's all very well to want out, the government coordinator for Lebanese affairs continues. But who will guarantee that Hizbullah's attacks will stop? I'm almost certain they will continue, with even greater intensity."

"Withdrawing unilaterally from Lebanon would leave us without any binding arrangements [working to end] the attacks, and it would mean abandoning the Lebanese residents in the security zone to the grace of heaven and to all those who wish them ill."

Lubrani has no doubt that the attacks on Israel would continue, almost certainly creating the conditions that would force Israel to invade Lebanon again — this time under far worse conditions, with much larger forces, and facing an actively hostile local population.

"The whole messy story would begin all over again," Lubrani says.

He cites the widely held view that the Syrians are behind Hizbullah, adding, "Hizbullah is no less inspired by Iran — and that's a factor we cannot control."

Among those who advocate unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon



Uri Lubrani: "Of course everyone wants out... but who will guarantee that Hizbullah's attacks will stop?" (Nitzan Shorer)

some, like MK Yossi Beilin, also want Israel to part company with the South Lebanese Army.

"But who will take its place?" Lubrani asks. "Only the IDF can. We cannot double the number of our soldiers in the security zone. The public wouldn't stand for it."

What about those who say the security zone should be widened in order to put Israel's northern settlements out of range of the Hizbullah's Katyusha rockets?

Lubrani is against it. "It would mean a significant increase in the Shi'ite population under our control, creating an even broader front against us," he says.

One thing is clear to Lubrani: Israel will not be able to get out of Lebanon without Syrian involvement. For him, the only possible interim solution, in the absence of a comprehensive peace treaty, is one that confines itself to security arrangements. And a treaty "may prove highly complex and difficult to achieve — maybe even impossible," he says.

He sums up: "Our mission is to make every effort to prevent further deterioration, to explore every channel that can lead to solutions, even if they are only interim ones."

In this context, Lubrani emphasizes that Israel continues in its full support of the understandings reached following the Grapes of Wrath operation.

It regards the monitoring group established to deal with complaints by the parties as a very important vehicle for de-escalating and reducing tension.

The group's record so far has been very positive, and Lubrani hopes that, the complexity of the situation notwithstanding, it will continue its good work.

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Elissa S. Shay, Phillips' Judaica specialist, will conduct a tour of the exhibition on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. An illustrated catalogue may be ordered by calling (212) 570-4830.

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- Communicated -

Cultural split in the camp

The rector of Bar-Ilan University has earned fierce condemnation in some quarters and applause in others for his critique of the 'haredization' of national-religious education. Allison Kaplan Sommer asked what prompted him to speak out.

Professor Yehuda Friedlander has no regrets. Even as the poison arrows are being flung in his direction from angry politicians, the rector of Bar-Ilan University says that he staunchly "stands by every word" of his harsh public criticism of what he sees as the "haredization" of national-religious education.

His home in Jerusalem. "If I am part of what is happening, it is because I didn't open my mouth earlier. We gave in for many years to these influences, and now the time has come to speak out."

Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism) has called on the 140 faculty members who make up the Bar-Ilan senate, which elected Friedlander rector, to remove him from his position, tagging him an "inciter, a polarizing force, and full of hatred for portions of society."



What Friedlander said

The national-religious camp has not trained enough educators and therefore is turning to haredim to teach in its schools, and these extremist forces, contends Prof. Yehuda Friedlander, are becoming "a Trojan horse which will destroy us from within," he said in an interview with the Hebrew daily *Yediot Aharonot* last week.

Specifically, Friedlander objects to the increased focus in national-religious education on extreme modesty - ranging from the dress code for girls from elementary-school age, measuring their skirts and making sure their legs are covered with stockings - to increased separation of the sexes.

He reserved his harshest words for the intellectual level of students at haredi yeshivot. In the Diaspora, he said, since the Jewish community had to support itself, only the true geniuses studied Torah full time as adults.

He also spoke out in favor of "live and let live" pluralism toward those who are not Orthodox - including the creation of an area at the Western Wall where men and women may pray together, and the inclusion of women and non-Orthodox on religious councils.

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Meir Ronnen
The Jerusalem Post

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ence in the debate over the making of the religious councils. I felt that if I remain silent, I am somehow abetting that violence.

Despite the expected condemnation from politicians, Friedlander says he is pleased with the "faxes, telephone calls, personal visits from rabbis, public figures close to politics, and intellectuals within the secular camps and the national-religious camps. With only a few exceptions, they were warm and encouraging."

Several faculty members at Bar-Ilan applauded Friedlander. Dr. Yehudit Auerbach, head of the division of journalism and communication studies at Bar-Ilan, praised the rector's decision to take a public stand.

"I, too, believe the time has come for the national-religious camp to speak out and make a distinction between their community and a haredi community that doesn't participate in the life of the state," she said. "In the secular public at large, the lines are getting blurred, and we have all sim-

Shas leader Aryeh Deri called Friedlander 'shameful.' Moshe Gafni (UTJ) said he 'is half Reform and wants to turn Judaism into a mockery.'

ply become 'those religious' who want to control their lives and take over the state.

"I don't want to be in the same category as those who create violence at the Wall, who don't send their sons to the army as I have. I'm glad someone of Professor Friedlander's stature has made that clear."

Prof. Charles Liebman, whose work in the Bar-Ilan political science department focuses on religion and politics, said that Friedlander's remarks reflect a split that is deepening within the national-religious camp between those who find the move toward an increasingly strict, haredi-style life desirable, and those who want to remain an active part of the larger society.

"It is important to see his remarks not as anti-haredi, but as opposing a tendency within religious Zionism to become haredi. I think what really upsets Professor Friedlander is that the lines are becoming indistinguishable, and I would certainly agree with him in that regard."

"It is very appropriate for someone from Bar-Ilan University to speak what is on his mind and on the minds of other people - it may not be wise for him politically, but it is to his credit that he didn't take that into account," Liebman said.

"I know there are others at Bar-Ilan who would disagree with me and with Professor Friedlander. If the current atmosphere of haredization in the religious Zionist community continues, an institution like Bar-Ilan cannot function freely."

"As I see it, Bar-Ilan has one of two options. It can cave in and become part of this process - and I am sure there are people at Bar-Ilan who would like that to happen, to

and began raising a family, it was necessary to support that family.

"And who allows things to operate as they do now? The government treasury, funding the yeshivot, at a budget higher than those which finance institutions of higher learning. And so the yeshivot have become a refuge for do-nothings."

The haredim, he said, are becoming "corrupted" by government money and, with increasingly fancy weddings and bat mitzvas, are "getting as materialistic as anyone else."

He also spoke out in favor of "live and let live" pluralism toward those who are not Orthodox - including the creation of an area at the Western Wall where men and women may pray together, and the inclusion of women and non-Orthodox on religious councils. In addition, he called the proposed conversion law "a disaster."

- A.K.S.

see it become a closed institution not open to freedom of thought and religion - and increasingly careful as to who is permitted to enter its portals. Or Bar-Ilan leaders can speak up and say: 'This trend is intolerable as far as we are concerned, and we have to oppose it.'

"The choice of most institutional leaders would be to waffle on this point, and I think it is to his credit that Professor Friedlander chose not to waffle," said Liebman.

HANGING over the controversy of Friedlander's remarks is the specter of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

"A man from the institution had produced Yigal Amir should remain silent," said Gafni.

Responded Friedlander: "I intend that the stain of Yigal Amir is a temporary stain. An intellectual knows that a university is for rational thinking, and anyone who is not critical minded has no place in university - Yigal Amir was such a person... Yigal Amir fell victim to a dangerous education before cam-

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GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

media world would be prepared to honor that appeal, there are strong doubts that the request was sincere. Pointing to the extensive print media coverage of the Netanyahu family vacation and bearing in mind how closely surrounded the family is by security guards, Israel Broadcasting Authority Director-General Moti Kirschenbaum queries how the photographers could have obtained some of those intimate shots without being invited into the Netanyahu compound.

WHEN over 100 friends of Yechezkel and Batsheva Mink showed up at the Sheraton Plaza hotel to celebrate his 70th birthday, they didn't expect to come away with a gift. But the occasion was also a launch party for Yechezkel Mink's autobiography, *How a Jewish Scrapman Recycled His Life*. Guests were each presented with the book, published by Gefen Press. It tells the story of Mink's successful career as a scrap merchant in New York and his inability to replicate that success here, when he and his wife, currently head gardener in the Botanical Gardens at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus, came on aliyah 21 years ago. Mink set up the Israel Recycling Company, which folded after three years. He then spent a two-year stint in Yamit, which is no longer on the map, then worked briefly for Bank Leumi, after which he decided to devote himself to volunteer activities by establishing the Old City Free Loan Association. Some of its contributors were on hand to celebrate both his birthday and his book. Guests from abroad included New York Supreme Court Judge Stanley Kaplan-Gartenstein and politician Peter Kaplan-Bar-Oz. Batsheva Mink will be co-writing a new gardening column in *The Jerusalem Post* starting Wednesday.



Yermi Kaplan: tying the knot

Jerusalemites Alan and Bonnie Cohen, formerly of Los Angeles, are famous in many parts of the world for their incredible hospitality. The Cohens have at least a dozen strangers at their Sabbath table every week and often entertain as many as 30 or 40 people. Two Saturdays ago they hosted WUJS student Greg Sandler from New Jersey without being aware of his presence. Only this week - when he sent them an e-mail thank-you - did they learn that Sandler had been in their house. Participants in Sandler's program were walking around the Old City walls overlooking the Cohens' home when their guide mentioned that the couple love having tourists come by to introduce themselves. So Sandler and a friend dropped in Saturday afternoon when the Cohens were napping. They were received by a family friend visiting from L.A., with whom they spent an enjoyable time knot chatting. Sandler signed off his thank-you note with "Maybe we'll catch you awake next time."

SINGER Yermi Kaplan managed to sandwich his marriage to Ravital Bar-Oz in between singing engagements. Hopefully, his voice is in better shape than his foot, which failed at the first attempt to break the glass under the bridal canopy. One of the perks of having a wedding in which the guest-list is top heavy with stars from the entertainment industry is that some of them get up and perform gratis. Amongst the entertainers present at the Amazonas Club at the port of Tel Aviv for the Tel Aviv Bar-Oz union were Aviv Gefen, Ahinoam Nini, Assaf Amdurski and Rami Kleinstein.



Anthony Quinn: Zorba the... wife beater? (U.R.P.A.)

ENTERTAINERS also came in large numbers to the Tuxedo Hall in Tel Aviv to bestow good wishes on comedians Moti Giladi and Osnat Vishnitski, he a widower, she a divorcee, who tied the knot on Tu Be'av. To prove his stamina, Giladi, 50, deftly lifted his 35-year-old-bride in his arms in an over-the-threshold gesture. Apart from the fact that they're obviously very much in love, they make each other laugh a lot.

LEGENDARY screen giant and two-time Oscar winner Anthony Quinn, 81, is being sued for divorce by his second wife, Yolanda, who is demanding an \$80 million settlement. The couple have been living apart for five years - since Quinn took off with his secretary, who is 48 years his junior, and with whom he has two children, aged four and one. The virile actor was apparently a violent father to his older children. One of his sons, Danny, 33, claims in an interview with the Italian weekly *Oggi* that Quinn was a wife beater and physically abusive to his children. It doesn't quite gel with his immortal Zorba image.

Kiryat Yam Mayor Shmuel Siso, the newly appointed consul-general in New York, rejects claims he lacks the necessary skills for the job, Liat Collins reports

As he opens up he also admits to having learned some English during the six months he spent in the US in the early 1970s.

"It was the end of the flower-power period and I traveled from coast-to-coast. I had a Jewish American girlfriend," he notes, adding, "Should you write that?"

In the end, however, most of the interview was conducted in Hebrew.

THE QUESTION of Siso's English - which he admits has

been "insulting as well as hurtful" - was first publicly raised in March by *New York Jewish Week* editor and publisher Gary Rosenblatt.

"Is it too much to ask for Israeli representatives here who can speak fluent English and whose credentials extend further than a political friendship with [Foreign Minister] David Levy?" Rosenblatt asked of the choice to replace Colette Avital.

"Several journalists seemed to have forgotten the basic ethics and didn't ask me directly if I know English or not," says Siso, 46. "Many also forget to mention I have an academic degree, ran my own successful law practice, and was reelected to a second term as mayor by a huge majority [81%]."

Though a member of the Likud, he had run backed by a joint Labor-Likud list. "That also shows something about me," he says.

vice to his professed interest in improving relations with US and Diaspora Jewry.

Some felt the column implied that US Jewry does not feel a Sephardi can represent Israel abroad as well as an Ashkenazi.

Romanian-born Avital has been feted in a series of farewell tributes, which ignored the bitterness she evoked among those opposed to the Oslo Accords.

"I suspect the source of the problem is a combination of factors," he says. "I think it has something to do with coming from a periphery town few have heard of

"Let's just say that you don't graduate from the Hebrew University's Law School without knowing some English," Siso says, "but people tend to ignore the fact that I am actually a qualified lawyer."

Most New York Jews would have a hard time finding Kiryat Yam on a map of Israel, admits Shmuel Siso, mayor of the coastal town located between Haifa and Acre. But that, he says, is no reason not to appoint him Israel's consul-general in the Big Apple.

The High Court of Justice dismissed an appeal yesterday by the Movement for Quality Government that sought to bar Siso from the post.

"This is a purely political appointment of a person who lacks the relevant qualifications for one of the most important and sensitive diplomatic positions," the movement said, in its petition.

Siso was nominated for the post by Foreign Minister David Levy in March, but the appointment was approved only earlier this month. He has spent recent months deflecting criticism that he does not know enough English and is not sufficiently familiar with the ways of US Jewry to serve in New York.

"GO AHEAD and interview me in English. That way you can prove for yourself that I know it," he says.

His English is accented but certainly no worse than many other non-native speakers working in the diplomatic corps or in politics.

"Let's just say that you don't graduate from the Hebrew University's Law School without knowing some English," he says, "But people tend to ignore the fact that I am actually a qualified lawyer."

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Judge, you say, sad about traitor (5)
- 4 Where Italians eat out of doors? (8)
- 10 Emergency phone for stolen stock of goods? (3,4)
- 11 Old lady caught by tax becomes a beggar? (7)
- 12 One making a mark afloat (4)
- 13 Girl to transport couch (5)
- 14 Tailless antelope makes dash (4)
- 17 Make comparatively poor effort to get at contents of lorry? (3,3,4,4)
- 19 Put on a strange diet? For Adam, it was an apple (9,5)
- 22 Successfully manage one end of telescope (4)
- 23 Pattern of fungus? (5)

DOWN

- 1 Boy's all spit and polish—that's England (4,4)
- 2 Tried to move to US city (7)
- 3 Toss coin in error (4)
- 5 Tolerant philosophy confounded all evident evil (4,3,3,4)
- 6 Wrong gear for fashion (4)

24 A quiet song or two (4)

27 One country expelling a student—to this one? (7)

28 Artist's final work shows a superficial improvement (7)

29 Spaniel—ocalist givas, home to a pair (8)

30 Most of time, I would appear shy (5)

7 Eat a bird (7)

8 Frequently is more malleable, removing top (5)

9 Malicious spirits recommend one to argue an unpopular cause (8,8)

15 Indian worker starts to dream happily of bigger income (5)

16 Morally improve small boy, if I speak (5)

18 Looked round the church, very formal (8)

20 Propose motion? He would do the converse (7)

21 First to understand the symbol for this bomb component (7)

22 Middle as Charles gets nothing to eat (5)

25 Jenny who went to sea (4)

26 Badly-behaved youngster has right to enter club (4)

L'expression personnelle

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Irish writer (5)
- 4 Blooms (7)
- 8 Of fingers (7)
- 9 Deduce (5)
- 10 Pre-pupal stage (5)
- 11 In abundance (7)
- 13 Appellation (4)
- 15 Delicate (6)
- 17 Hydrophobia (6)
- 20 Bager (4)
- 22 Italian dumplings (7)
- 24 Call on (5)
- 26 Fleet (5)
- 27 Dishonourable (7)
- 28 Swarm across (7)
- 29 Plaintive poem (5)

DOWN

- 1 Walked like a duck (7)
- 2 Light bear (5)
- 3 Competitor (7)
- 4 London district (5)
- 5 Bay window (5)
- 6 Arab dignitary (7)
- 7 Regretful (5)
- 12 Fairy (4)
- 14 Indian nanny (4)
- 16 Worship (7)
- 18 Loan (7)
- 19 Surflet (7)
- 21 Slight (6)
- 22 Relish (5)
- 23 Prepare food (5)
- 25 Cavalry sword (5)

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes various Israeli companies like Elbit, Elron, etc.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes various Israeli companies like U.S. Intelligent, Israel Land Develop, etc.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Includes various Israeli companies like ISE Int Software Group, Summit Design, etc.

TASE ROUNDUP

Stocks mixed on concern over Wall Street drop

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange was mixed yesterday as investors expressed concern about potential drops in New York markets after the close of the week's trading in Tel Aviv.

The Maof Index of 25 most-traded stocks closed down 0.6 percent to 304.65. The Mishtanim Index of 100 most-traded stocks dropped 0.19%, to 294.46. In the

broader market, three stocks gained for every two that declined. Leading the market lower were Clal Insurance, slumping 8.5%, foods producer Osem, down 2.25%, and Bank Leumi, down 2.5%.

Offsetting the drops were Elbit Medical Imaging Ltd., up 5.75%. Nice Systems, up 6.5%, and high-tech holding company Elron Electronic Industries, up 3%.

"There are fears of drops on Wall Street," said Idan Azoulay, a fund manager at Impact Securities. "There is a bad feeling after what happened last week when people reentered" and New York had dropped 3%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.3% on Wednesday. Mark Meiras, managing director at Pacific Mediterranean Securities Ltd., said that investors

are waiting for Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel's decision on September interest rates, due Monday. "No one is going to be taking significant positions until after Monday," he said.

Azoulay said that investors have accounted for an expected 0.3 percentage point interest rate rise. "Everyone is ready in anticipation of a 0.3% increase," he said.

Elbit Medical, a maker of medical scanners, gained after the company's shares traded in New York yesterday.

Nice Systems, a maker of digital voice-logging systems, went up after the company was reentered "strong buy" Salomon Brothers and "buy" at Lehman Brothers.

The company's American depositary receipts rose 8.4% in New York on Wednesday. (Bloomberg)

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists top 100 TASE issues.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies.

Key Representative Rates

Table with columns: Instrument, Rate, Change. Lists key representative rates.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Index, Last, Change. Lists New York market indexes.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Index, Last, Change. Lists other market indexes.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists international shares.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various international companies.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various international companies.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last, Change. Lists various international companies.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Euroshares run out of steam as Dow falters

LONDON (Reuters) - Wall Street's early signal that its three-day recovery may have run out of steam, a cue long-awaited by European dealers, pulled London shares off session highs and dragged a thin Paris market lower on yesterday.

Only the Frankfurt bourse, which closed below New York opened, stuck doggedly to its advance on relief the Bundesbank had left interest rates intact.

In London, Europe's biggest market, profit-taking after this week's sharp gains sent the FTSE 100 blue-chip index drifting off the session's best after the Dow Industrials Average slipped 60 points during the first two hours of trade after three days of 100-point-plus gains.

Refusing to top 5,000 again, as it had done for the first time earlier this month, the FTSE back-pedaled from earlier gains achieved partly on the back of Wall Street's rise, and closed 19.6 points higher at 4,978.0.

"There is an increasing number of people thinking that beyond the 5,000 level there is not a great deal of support in the market," one trader said.

Shares in British Telecom provided a boost to the FTSE, rising 28-1/2 points to 412 after the company confirmed it was talking with MCI to re-negotiate economic terms of their planned merger.

Frankfurt's DAX index stock to its advance throughout the day as expectations were fulfilled that the Bundesbank would not raise interest rates after its first council meeting since the summer break.

In a more pessimistic and holiday-thinned Paris, the leading CAC-40 index slipped on profit-taking following the Bundesbank announcement, and was pulled down further by Wall Street's sluggish opening performance.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended up 103.13 points, or 1.3 percent, at 8,021.23 on Wednesday, having regained over three sessions more than it lost during Friday's 247-point plunge, its second biggest points fall ever.

A surge in technology stocks boosted investors' confidence that the relentless rise in U.S. share prices might still have further to go after its recent correction.

The Dow was back below 8,000, a level it breached for the first time just over a month ago.

Some European investors were encouraged by the US market's resilience, but others were concerned at the speed of the recovery and wary of stumbling on the road ahead.

"People are very wary of Wall Street at the moment, but nevertheless we will respond favorably to it," one London share trader said.

On the currency market, a thinly-veiled threat from the Bundesbank pushed the dollar down to close lower against the mark, a retreat accelerated by the apparent petering out of US stocks.

Although the central bank left interest rates unchanged, it announced a plan to set its key securities repurchase tenders every Tuesday as opposed to every second week - a return to previous policy seen as keeping markets even more on edge about possible rate hikes to defend the mark.

"The Bundesbank is playing it very clever. While we don't see them raising rates just yet, they are effectively keeping the threat alive and keeping a lid on dollar/mark," said Arnaud Mares, European strategist at Credit Agricole Indosuez.

Sterling tumbled after the Confederation of British Industry, the country's leading business lobby, said export orders were at a five-year low and forecast a decline in the pound throughout 1998.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: Currency, Last, Change. Lists dollar crossrates.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists US commodities.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists London commodities.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists spot market metals.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists New York metal futures.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists London metal fixes.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow plummets 127 points after electrifying rally

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks backpedaled yesterday as investors banked some profits after lifting the Dow Jones industrial average more than 300 points higher over the last three days.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow ended down 127.28 points, or 1.5 percent, at 7,895.95.

Wall Street was also nervous heading into today's session, which has tended to bring big losses recently. Last Friday, the Dow plunged 247 points in the second biggest point drop since the 1987 stock market crash.

In the broader market, declining issues swamped advances 2-1 on moderate volume of 494 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 21.95 points, or 1.3%, to 1,606.75. Investors were also preoccupied with a drop in bonds and renewed weakness in the dollar.

"It's no accident that the dollar rallied over the past three days, stocks jumped. But today the dollar fell back and so did stocks," said Peter Canelo, US equity strategist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

The dollar was hurt by mounting concerns that Germany may be preparing to raise interest rates, which combined to knock bonds into a similar tailspin.

The dollar ended at 1.8360 German marks, down from 1.8558 marks in late New York trading Wednesday.

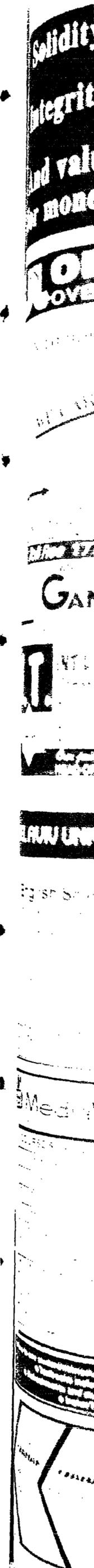
The Treasury's key 30-year bond fell 27/32, or \$8.44 on a \$1,000 bond, which raised its yield to 6.61% from Wednesday's close of 6.54%.

Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions. Among the big movers, MCI Communications Corp. fell 6-1/8 to 30-9/16 in heavy trading after the company said it was in talks with British Telecommunications Plc about the terms of their \$2.7 billion merger deal and could not guarantee the outcome of the negotiations.

DATA ANALYTICS VIA CommStock Trading Ltd. Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds. 34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem. Tel: 02-625-9581 Fax: 02-625-9515

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CNC Regular Track (7 courses)	Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Dec. 22	Tue. & Thur. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 9
WINDOWS NT MCSE Express Track (6 courses)	Tue. & Thur. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sep. 9	Mon. & Wed. 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 8
WINDOWS NT MCSE Regular Track (6 courses)	Tue. & Thur. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 9	Mon. & Wed. 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 9
IT FC SUPPORT ENGINEER (FC ONA)	Fridays, 9-11	Sep. 12	Wed. 9-11	Sep. 10
MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT	Wed. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Sep. 17	Sun. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Sep. 21
VISUAL C++	Mon. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Sep. 8	Sun. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Sep. 7
VISUAL BASIC	Mon. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Sep. 8	Sun. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Sep. 7
C/C++ PROGRAMMING	Sun. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Sep. 7	Sun. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 7
COREL DRAW	Mon. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Sep. 8	Wed. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Sep. 10

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NEWS

in brief

Chazan wants IDF to halt AIDS testing

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) is demanding that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai order that blood tests for AIDS detection not be taken from soldiers. She said the tests are carried out only on homosexuals, Ethiopians, drug users, and those with tattoos and are carried out without their consent or knowledge.

"By defining certain target groups for AIDS tests, the IDF is acting irresponsibly and branding these soldiers, and it is opening the front door to the racist genie and the fear and hatred of the different," Chazan said.

Liat Collins

Matza to mediate rift for MDA, fund-raisers

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza will spend three days in the US next week to try to resolve an ongoing dispute between American Red Magen David for Israel and Magen David Adom management in Tel Aviv.

The dispute has caused delays in the transfer of funds from the American friends' organization, including \$3.2 million promised for a communications system and \$850,000 for a computer system in the blood bank.

ARMAD donations have dropped from \$2 million four years ago to less than \$500,000 today, but the donation of 60 to 70 new ambulances a year continues.

The Health Ministry did not disclose the cause of the dispute between the fund-raisers and MDA officials.

Judy Siegel

Bezeq cuts rates on calls to US

Bezeq International has cut its overseas dialing rates to four countries, including the US, effective today, with permission from the Communications Ministry. This, says BI, makes its charges for calls to the US the cheapest in the market 61 agorot plus VAT per minute.

The cuts were made possible because BI's share of the market has fallen below 70% over the past 28 days, thus the ministry has reduced its control of rates.

The new rates to France and Holland are 84 agorot and to Morocco NIS 1.07 (all plus VAT, per minute). These cheaper rates are for those who register with BI.

Judy Siegel

Two arrested in robbery-shooting

Two men were arrested yesterday for the armed robbery and shooting of the manager of a Tel Aviv employment agency earlier in the day. As the manager left the agency, on Rehov Dizengoff, for the bank, carrying a suitcase containing \$20,000 in cash, two men pulled up on a motorcycle and demanded the bag. When he refused to give it to them, one shot him in the leg, lightly wounding him. They then took the money and fled.

Police traced the two to a Jaffa house and arrested them, recovering the suitcase, the money, and the victim's wallet. The two face a remand hearing today.

Itim

Cabinet OKs 'security basket' for taxi drivers

The cabinet yesterday authorized Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy to determine priorities for a "security basket" to protect taxi drivers, and asked him and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to come up with funding for the program within 30 days.

Among the suggestions for the basket are installing a satellite-based system that would help locate drivers during times of distress; installing a transparent divider between the driver and passenger seats; conducting courses for drivers on how to respond if they are threatened; and issuing pistols to drivers.

Jerusalem Post Staff



Netanyahu and 'The Nanny'

American television actress Fran Drescher, star of "The Nanny," chats with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara at the Knesset last night. She attended a Knesset ceremony celebrating 100 years since the founding of modern Zionism. The festivities were sponsored by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Fund of Aish HaTorah.

(Brian Hendry)

Wiesenthal Center seeks war trial

Office wants alleged Nazi Konrad Kalejs extradited from Australia

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and news agencies

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israeli Office called on Latvia yesterday to seek the extradition of Konrad Kalejs from Australia for alleged Nazi war crimes.

Kalejs, 84, returned to Australia on Wednesday after being deported from Canada two days earlier. As an alleged officer with the notorious Arajs Kommando in Latvia, Kalejs is accused of involvement in the murders of tens of thousands of Jews during World War II.

Efraim Zuroff, director of the Wiesenthal Center's Israel Office, said he wrote a letter to Latvia's Ambassador to Israel, Ivars Silars, asking Latvia to try Kalejs.

"He committed most of his crimes in Latvia," Zuroff wrote. "We believe that such a trial, if held in Latvia, would be of unique historical and moral significance

for the Latvian people and contemporary Latvian society.

Zuroff hopes Latvia could "provide the documents and witnesses that have so far eluded the Australian authorities."

An official at the Latvian embassy said yesterday that the request was submitted to Latvia's foreign ministry.

If Latvia tried to have Kalejs extradited, they may have a problem, because Australian law wouldn't permit his deportation, even if he were convicted in Australia of war crimes, Australia's Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said.

Zuroff urged Australia earlier this week to try Kalejs. The country's attorney general promised to investigate.

The head of Australia's now defunct war crimes investigations unit accused the government of being too slow to act

against Kalejs.

"I feel disappointed that Australia, my country, has put itself in this position where it can legitimately be criticized by the international community," said Bob Greenwood, former head of Australia's Special Investigations Unit.

Greenwood said that he warned the government in 1992 that Kalejs, an Australian citizen, was bound to return, and that "they would have to be ready to act, otherwise the country could easily become something of an international laughing stock."

"What the Australian Federal Police should by now be in a position to do is to take immediate action either to interview and possibly charge Kalejs, or inform Kalejs their investigation is such that they won't be charging him under the War Crimes Act," Greenwood said.

Australia shut its Special Investigations

Unit in 1992 after three failed prosecutions and cries that it was wasting millions of dollars in taxpayers' money.

Former Nazi war crimes investigator Graham Blewitt, now deputy prosecutor of the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, said it was unlikely Kalejs would ever be prosecuted.

Blewitt told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio that investigators never found enough evidence to prosecute Kalejs.

"We reached the stage that there was insufficient evidence to bring a prosecution under the fairly high standard required to convict someone in the Australian courts, namely you needed to establish his guilt beyond reasonable doubt."

Blewitt also said he did not believe the present government would be happy to open up the issue of war crimes again.

Soldier stable after spider bite

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 21-year-old soldier bitten in his sleep Wednesday night by a black widow spider was in stable condition yesterday after suffering a severe reaction to the venom.

Doctors at Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed said they used various medications to relieve the symptoms, claiming that they could not locate antivenin for black widow venom.

Health Ministry associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev said, however, there is an adequate supply of antivenin in the emergency storehouse of the health ministry in Tel Aviv, and in this case its use was not necessary.

Dr. Yosef Ezri, head of the respiratory intensive care unit at Rebecca Sieff hospital, noted that antivenin is in any case not recommended in the treatment of most black widow bites, as it can cause anaphylactic shock in some victims. Thus the antivenin should be used only for youngsters under the age of 16, old people, patients with chronic illnesses and others with very serious reactions.

The soldier, who lives in the center of the country, was sleeping in an army tent on the Golan Heights when he awoke to the feeling of a needle prick. When he looked at his jaw, he saw a red spot with a white halo around it; within half an hour, he felt severe stomach and muscle pains, contractions of his back muscles, pain in his knees and weakness.

Emergency room and intensive care unit doctors who diagnosed the cause said such bites are very rare and that they had never seen such a serious reaction to a black widow bite. They gave him Valium and drugs against pain.

He was fully conscious yesterday, but was still suffering from heavy sweating and rapid changes in blood pressure. These after-effects could continue for as long as a week, said Ezri, but death from black widow bites is rare.

High Court gives go-ahead to Siso

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Shmuel Siso will take up the post of consul-general in New York next week, after the High Court of Justice yesterday turned down a petition challenging his qualifications.

Justices Shlomo Levine, Theodor Orr, and Dalia Dornier rejected the petition by the Movement for Quality Government outright and ruled there were insufficient grounds for court intervention.

"I am very relieved. The petition was based on rumors and justice has been done. I shall prove to all my opponents how well I can represent the state as consul-general," Siso said in response.

The petition argued that Siso, until now mayor of

Kiryat Yam, "did not have the relevant qualifications and experience for the position, one of the most important and sensitive in the foreign service." It alleged that Siso's appointment was political and that Foreign Minister David Levy was beholden to Siso for helping his Geshet Party in the 1996 election campaign.

Also noted in the appeal was that the Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander had questioned the administrative procedure involved in Siso's appointment.

The justices ruled that it is not the court's duty to intervene in political appointments unless corruption is involved. They said that movement members should have expressed their feelings on the op-ed page of a newspaper rather than in court.

SISO

Continued from Page 12

Siso has met with UN Ambassador Dore Gold, and hopes the two can cooperate, each within his own area of authority. In the past there have been periodic tensions between the UN ambassador and the New York consul-general.

"We are in the middle of the peace process," he says. "This is not a business argument or a dispute with neighbors at home. It's an historic dispute and as such it will not be solved overnight. There are ups and downs. Right now we seem to be in a 'down' but we must pray that an 'up'

follows. Crises and achievements can both be expected."

Siso had praise for his predecessor Avital, who was appointed by the previous Labor government. He said that she represented Israel well. "I hope that I will also represent Israel well - in all its variety," he said.

Siso has to resign as mayor to take up the consul post, but said he hopes to return to Kiryat Yam when his term in New York is up.

Apart from his former law practice he is also a board member of several concerns including Amigur, the public housing company.

"I'm not the type of person who lives just for politics. I ran for mayor because I grew up on

the mistakes made in the absorption of immigrants during my parents' time and I am grateful for the chance to do it differently," Siso said.

Siso says he hopes to prove himself at his new job despite the hurtful criticism of his English skills. He writes off the criticism as motivated mainly by jealousy.

"These attacks, as I said, come from irrelevant considerations. Perhaps there are those who think that if I don't go, they will go in my place," he said.

In New York, said Siso, "I will be able to represent the State of Israel in the best possible way. I know that in the US, people are judged by their achievements."

PM

Continued from Page 1

He cited the freezing of funds owed the PA, denying workers access to places of employment, and barring staples from reaching consumers in Gaza.

Cabinet secretary Dar Naveh assailed Arafat for initiating the "national unity" talks, saying he is "two-faced."

"On the one hand, he says he is against terrorism, and afterwards he runs to hug the killers of women and children," Naveh said.

Referring to Arafat's show of cordiality and affection toward Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders, Naveh said: "If he is truly a partner in peace, the way he claims he is, he must fight these organizations and certainly not embrace them."

An independent Palestinian analyst described Arafat's bid for rap-

prochement with the Islamic fundamentalists as a political error. He contended that national unity that included Hamas and Islamic Jihad could only rebound against him.

"It was a mistake for him to have hugged Hamas's Abdul-Azziz Rantisi and Islamic Jihad's Sheikh Nafez Azzam," he said, noting that the Israeli public could not be expected to understand this kind of "Arab mentality."

The analyst also said rank-and-file Palestinians are infuriated at Arafat for "engaging in ceremonies" when they are waiting for changes in his "corrupt administration."

At the cabinet meeting, Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai and OC Intelligence Maj. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon reported on the situation in southern Lebanon and recent negotiations with the PA. The discussion was officially described as a follow up to the security cabinet's prior deliberations.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said the closure could be eased, while at the same time the free access granted Palestinian VIPs, whom he described as "high-rollers and bar flies who suck the juice of the Palestinian people," could be canceled. Sharon contended that the freedom of movement gives these individuals "a gesture" and is not obligatory under the Oslo Accords.

"That kind of action would have much more influence than a closure, which helps Arafat engage in anti-Israel propaganda," he said.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said it is impossible to reconcile oneself with Arafat's statements in which he grants recognition to Hamas and justifies terrorism.

"Instead of his complying with the demand that he fight terrorism, the very opposite is taking place," Matza said. "Hamas is burning Israeli flags and engaging in incitement with Arafat's support."



Kahalani chats with Russia's premier

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin (right) gestures as he chats with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani in Moscow yesterday. Meanwhile, Asst.-Cmdr. Meir Gilboa, who heads the investigation into the Zvi Ben-Ari case and who accompanied Kahalani to Russia, said that he expected Russian authorities would provide evidence regarding Ben-Ari's alleged involvement in murder.

(Ronen)

BARAK

Continued from Page 1

The Histadrut also said it would seek a court injunction against the party, and accused Barak of planning to hire staff of his own choice and have them sign personal contracts.

Angry employees festooned the building with hurriedly-composed, hand-painted placards. Some signs compared Barak's behavior to accusations that as IDF chief of general staff, he failed to stay behind after soldiers died in an accident at the Tze'elim base.

"Barak flees again - at at Tze'elim," one poster said. "Barak

is used to running away," read another. Yet a third said: "Barak will never become prime minister this way."

MK Yossi Beilin, who had challenged Barak for the party leadership several months ago, urged Barak to rescind the dismissals and to negotiate with the staff about budget cuts.

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

Katz scoffed at Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who "cannot understand" what the strike is about.

"Neeman is all set. He has a budgetary pension [senior officials get their pension from the state budget, without having to pay part of their wages for it all

their life]. Moreover, his wages are updated every few months by dozens of percent," he said.

The Histadrut has not yet decided whether to strike the whole economy at the beginning of September, or to strike separately in each sector, then escalate to a general strike.

The leaders of the large unions urged a nationwide strike, including mass demonstrations and roadblocks, which

would paralyze the entire economy for weeks on end.

Earlier this week, the Histadrut sent out more than 100 notices to employers in the public and business sector, warning of the expected general strike. The strike notices were also sent to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, the entire cabinet and the directors-general of all the ministries.

